



ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES



- DATE:** Thursday, February 10, 2022 – 9:30 am – 12:00pm - Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams
- CO-CHAIRS:** AJ Keene
Serena Essex
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Kathy Beardy, Kristy Boucher, Elliott Cromarty, Pauline Fontaine, Indigenous Student, Trustee Jesslynn Friday, Anna Fern Kakegamic, Sharon Kanutski, Leanna Marshall, Elder Gerry Martin, Trustee George Saarinen, Yolanda Wanakamik, Indigenous Trustee Scottie Wemigwans
- ALTERNATES:** Trustee Ellen Chambers, Trustee Susan Doughty-Smith
- RESOURCES:** Maureen Abbott, Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Anika Guthrie, Fred Van Elburg
- GUESTS:** Patti Pella, Education Officer, Indigenous Education Office, Ministry of Education, Alexa Sagutcheway, Student Representative
- ABSENT WITH REGRETS:** Jennifer Chapman, Brittany Collins, Keli Cristofaro, Donna Flasz, Mike Judge, Dinah Jung, Cheryl King-Zewiec, Mehar Mago, Student Trustee, Skylene Metatawabin, Ashley Nurmela, Nick Sacevich, Jasmine Sgambelluri, Sophie Sutherland, Student Representative, Elder/Knowledge Keeper Renee Tookenay

	AGENDA ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
1.	Opening Ceremonies	Elder Gerry Martin called the meeting to order.	Elder Gerry Martin
2.	2.1 Land Acknowledgement	Co-chair Keene acknowledged the lands and traditional territory.	AJ Keene
	2.2 Welcome and Introductions	Co-chair Essex welcomed everyone to the meeting and had all members introduce themselves.	Serena Essex

3.	Agenda and Minutes		
	3.1 Approval of Agenda - February 10, 2022	Moved by Trustee Scottie Wemigwans and seconded by Sharon Kanutski that the agenda for the February 10, 2022, AEAC Microsoft Teams meeting be approved as written. Carried	Serena Essex
	3.2 Approval of Minutes – December 16, 2021	Moved by Trustee Saarinen and seconded by Trustee Chambers that the minutes for the December 16, 2021, AEAC meeting be approved with the following correction: That the Co-Chair Essex's name be replaced by Co-chair Keene as she was not present at the meeting. Carried	Serena Essex
4.	Business Arising from the Minutes		
	4.1 PIC Funding/Virtual Family Nights	Anika Guthrie, FNMI Education Coordinator, informed the group that Ms. Bannon, Native Language teacher at Algonquin Avenue Public School, has agreed to lead family language nights which will be called Anishinaabemowin Family Night. This will start Thursday, March 3, 2022, via Microsoft Teams and will continue every Thursday in March, excluding March Break. PIC funding will be used to pay the honorariums for the people leading the sessions. All members' questions were addressed.	Anika Guthrie
5.	Presentations		
6.	New Business		
	6.1 Indigenous Student Survey and Circle	Indigenous Student Trustee, Jesslynn Friday, shared with the group information regarding the Indigenous Student Survey and Circle she is planning. Indigenous Student Trustee Friday explained that the survey is a form used to identify Indigenous student needs within the Lakehead District School Board (LDSB). The survey is open to any self-identified Indigenous student within LDSB. The Indigenous Student Circle is a secondary student group that is focused on identifying needs and concerns and amplifying Indigenous student's voices.	Jesslynn Friday

		All members' questions were addressed.	
	6.2 Diversity Thunder Bay Virtual Event	Anika Guthrie shared with the committee information regarding the virtual event being held on March 23, 2022. All members' questions were addressed.	Anika Guthrie
	6.3 AEAC Work Plan	Anika Guthrie reviewed the work plan and goals with members. Members were separated into two breakout rooms to discuss the work plan. All members' questions were addressed.	All
	6.4 I AM Census	Mahejabeen Ebrahim, Human Rights and Equity Advisor, updated the group on the status of the student census. All members' questions were addressed.	Mahejabeen Ebrahim
	6.5 Staffing Updates	Co-chair AJ Keene shared with the group a staffing update prepared by Student Success Lead, Nick Sacevich. Co-chair Serena Essex shared with the group information regarding the partnership with the Indigenous Friendship Centre to support staffing of the new KZ Lodge program at Westgate. This includes one full-time alternative secondary school support worker and one assistant who will travel between the two sites. All members' questions were addressed.	AJ Keene Serena Essex
7.	Ongoing Business		
	7.1 COVID-19 Update	Co-chair AJ Keene informed the committee that there will be an announcement stating a full return to co-curricular activities. Rapid antigen tests have been provided to all staff and students in the board. Staffing shortages are high but to date, no students with special needs have had to be sent home nor have any classrooms had to be closed. All members' questions were addressed.	AJ Keene

	7.2 Indigenous Student Trustee Update	<p>Indigenous Student Trustee, Jesslynn Friday, shared with the group that she has been working with the Multicultural Regional Youth Council's co-presidents and is hoping to receive recruitments to the Indigenous Student Circle through them.</p> <p>Trustee Friday shared that she has posted recruitment information on the Indigenous Student Trustee Instagram account and spoke about the position at the Multicultural Regional Youth Council meeting.</p>	Jesslynn Friday
	7.3 Native Language Supports and Resources	<p>Anika Guthrie informed the committee that a new NSL teacher was hired at the secondary level. A qualified teacher was found to take on the position that is split between Hammar skjold High School and Superior CVI. A virtual workshop is planned for March 4, 2022, for NSL teachers to work on their language skills with a fluent language speaker.</p> <p>All members' questions were addressed.</p>	Anika Guthrie
8.	Information and Inquiries	<p>Co-chair AJ Keene shared information regarding the OPSBA 2022 Awards Program and its nomination procedure.</p> <p>Trustee Chambers shared that Diversity Thunder Bay has had a series of speakers. The next speaker will be Dr. Scott Hamilton in March. Previous speakers can be found on the Diversity Thunder Bay website.</p> <p>Trustee Chambers shared with the group that the trustees are participating in a book study. The book is called "Decolonizing Education – Nourishing the Learning Spirit" by Marie Battiste.</p> <p>All members' questions were addressed.</p>	
9.	Closing	Co-chair Serena Essex closed the meeting.	
10.	Next Meeting	Thursday, March 24, 2022	
11.	Adjournment	The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.	